

REMARKS

Entry of the above amendments is respectfully requested pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.116(a).

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103 and Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 1-8, 11 and 23-30 and 32-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 6,118,762 to Nomura. Claims 9 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Nomura in view of Gaudet (U.S. Patent 6,529,571). Claims 12-19 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious over AAPA in view of Nomura. Claims 10, 21 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nomura in view of Beshai U.S. 6,907,002.

Claims 40-43 were allowed.

In order only to expedite allowance of this application, applicants have cancelled claims 1-39. Accordingly, all non-cancelled claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to this effect is hereby requested.

Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the claims in condition for allowance. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Applicants' Attorney at the number listed below so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

For these reasons, and in view of the above amendments, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Date

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